The Value of an Exploris Education

Highlights of School Accolades

- Designated “School of Excellence” since inception (1997)
- Designated “Honor School of Excellence” since 2003 – highest award granted to a public school
- US Department of Education Green Ribbon Award Winner
- Design for Change National Winner
- NC Model STEM School of Distinction - 1st school designated in state
- A Rating on State Report Card since inception
- Exceeds national norms in both student achievement and annual growth for reading and math

Teacher Accolades

- Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- Career Award for Science and Mathematics Teachers
- Kenan Fellows
- Nationally Board Certified
- Advanced Degrees in many areas

Exploris is another jewel in Raleigh’s crown. It has a 20-year record of educational excellence and is committed to staying downtown. We need to help build this new school. Exploris is the very essence of Raleigh’s reputation for innovation.

– Smedes York, former Raleigh mayor and Chairman of the Board, York Properties

Contact Us

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401 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27603
The Exploris School, established in 1997, is a downtown Raleigh public charter school. Admission is open to the public and students are selected based on a random lottery. The low student-teacher ratio enables Exploris to approach learning by engaging students in a rigorous, relevant, relationship-based education. Instruction is brought to life through standards-based experiential, project-based learning, global education, and social justice initiatives.

Exploris maintains an atmosphere of academic rigor and personal accountability. Instruction is presented in an age appropriate, interdisciplinary, thematic, and practical manner.

THE EXPLORIS SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Exploris creates independent learners, critical and creative thinkers, and active and responsible participants in a global society. The curriculum at Exploris is based on how students learn best—through an interdisciplinary instructional approach in a small class setting.

Experiential and Collaborative Learning
Integrating National and State educational standards, Exploris teachers involve their students in inquiry-based learning. Project-based expeditions involve students in current, complex, and relevant issues that incorporate language arts, social studies, science, the arts, and civic action. Teamwork is an integral element in all aspects of the Exploris experience. Students collaborate in small groups throughout their day, exploring concepts and discussing issues during their core instruction times, working together to design and complete projects during expeditions.

Service Learning and Community Involvement
Participation in the broader community is a hallmark of the Exploris philosophy and experience. Exploris goes out into the community, integrates learning with local universities, businesses, community and civic organizations to actively serve and learn with the community in which we participate.

Field Experiences
The surrounding downtown Raleigh area extends the walls of the Raleigh classroom. Students at all grade levels participate in thoughtfully planned daily field experiences that connect with the curriculum. Daily or overnight field trips connected to current expeditions occur at each grade level. Students work with local museums and businesses routinely, acting as weekly guides or assisting at special events. Overnight camping trips are also an integral part of the Exploris learning community.

Leadership Skill Development
Exploris students learn organization, time management, and interpersonal skills through the many collaborative class projects. Students take on various leadership roles in the class and in the school. Many of our students serve as school ambassadors and provide detailed tours of our school to the many national and international educational leaders that visit Exploris. Students maintain portfolios of work samples and hold student-led conferences with their parents and teachers to describe their strengths and areas in need of further growth. As active participants in their learning process, students strive to continuously improve and demonstrate growth and achievement.

Social and Emotional Development
Exploris has the instructional support staff to meet the needs of all learners and values the importance of balance and wellness. Students are supported by a school counselor, interventionist, exceptional children teaching staff, teaching partners, and support services. Our wellness program incorporates physical education as well as yoga, dance, and meditation. The Exploris School values and nurtures the whole child academically, socially, and emotionally so that all children can learn in a safe and supportive learning environment that challenges all to achieve their best.

OUR CORE VALUES

Curiosity | Craftsmanship | Innovation
Reflection | Engagement | Balance
Social Empowerment | Collaboration | Connections to Nature
Relationships

Welcome to The Exploris School!

The Exploris Middle School wasn’t about sitting in a classroom. The world around us was our school. Through real-world experiences, active exploration, and spirited collaboration, we were encouraged and supported to become independent learners, critical and creative thinkers, and active citizens, locally and globally. There are certainly aspects of who I am and what I value today that I trace directly back to the foundation that was laid at Exploris—and I am grateful for it.

–Ellie Cosgrove, Class of 2003

Learn more about The Exploris School Experience at exploris.org